

REMARKS

As filed, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 were independent claims. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate subject matter previously presented in claims dependent thereon. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of dependent claim 6 (now canceled), and independent claim 12 has been amended to include the recitation of dependent claim 14 (now canceled). New independent claims 21 and 22 have been added. Independent claim 21 is based on the verbiage of original claims 1, 7 and 9, whereas independent claim 22 is based on the verbiage of original claims 12 and 15-17. Editorial corrections have been made to dependent claims 8, 9, 16 and 17. No new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing claim amendments and prompt entry thereof is respectfully requested.

In the initial Office Action, the following art-based rejections were advanced:

- Claims 1, 4, 5, 11-13, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,704,885 to Sala-Meza et al. (“SM”);
- Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the SM patent, further in view of a document referenced as “DPU by Microsoft Computer Dictionary” (“MSCD”);
- Claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the SM patent, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,637 to Wright et al.; and
- Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the SM patent, further in view of “encryption” by MSCD.

However, applicants note with appreciation the Examiner’s indication that claims 6, 9, 14 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants further note with appreciation the Examiner’s statements as to reasons for allowance/allowability as to such claims.

Consistent with the Examiner’s indication of allowability as to claims 6, 9, 14 and 17, applicants present herein amended claims 1 and 12, and added new claims 21 and 22, which correspond to the subject matter of original claims 6, 14, 9 and 17, respectively. Applicants

respectfully submit that each of such independent claims is patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action (paragraphs 14-16). Accordingly, the outstanding art-based rejections of independent claims 1 and 12 are obviated hereby, and reconsideration and prompt allowance of independent claims 1 and 12 are respectfully requested. In addition, prompt allowance of new independent claims 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Similarly, with reference to dependent claims 2-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-20, applicants respectfully submit that such claims are allowable for at least the reasons noted with respect to the independent claims from which they depend, either directly or indirectly. Applicants have addressed the issues raised with respect to claims 8, 9, 16 and 17, thereby obviating the outstanding claim objections. Prompt allowance of these dependent claims is earnestly solicited.

In sum, prompt action leading to an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If the examiner believes a telephone communication might be useful in advancing prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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